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THE GULL



Golden Gate Audubon Society

Berkeley, California

Volume 68

Number 8

September 1986

NEW RARE BIRD ALERT PHONE NUMBER

Effective immediately the recorded rare bird alert has a new telephone number.
It is (415) 528-0288.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS PREVIEW

Our September program has a special date for a special presentation. September 18, the THIRD Thursday of the month, we will meet in Berkeley, as usual at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 the Alameda. This presentation will be devoted to the extended field trips being offered in the coming year. See the special insert in this month's *GULL!* Chris Carpenter, director of the extended field trips program, will show slides of what might be expected on our trips to Mexico, Costa Rica, Texas and Suriname.

The highlight of the evening will be a film on the Okavango Delta—a green and tranquil naturalist's paradise often referred to as "Africa's Last Eden." The Delta is a mixture of wetlands, grasslands and plains situated in the northern reaches of the Kalahari Desert in Botswana. This 5800 square mile area teems with such wildlife as lion, hippo, zebra, buffalo, giraffe, elephant and crocodile in addition to some 500 species of birds.

Presenting the film will be Michael Culhane of Gametrackers International. Michael is a native of southern Africa committed to the development of wildlife conservation in Botswana.

Remember, this meeting has a special date of **Thursday, September 18** at 7:30 p.m.!! Come see what Chris has planned for some lucky travellers in 1986-87.

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FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 10—Minitrip to Alameda South Shore. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. Bring lunch and scopes. Leaders: Delpha de Timofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Saturday, September 11—San Mateo Coast. See July/August *Gull* for details.

Saturday, September 20—Coastal San Francisco. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near the 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden Gate Park. We will bird in the park, Lake Merced and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in search of migrants found in the area. Bring your lunch and be prepared for cold weather near the coast. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074).

Sunday, September 21—Point Diablo. Meet at the top of Bunker Hill where we will watch for migrating hawks and land birds between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. From San Francisco drive north across the Golden Gate Bridge and take Alexander Ave. exit. Turn left as if to return to San Francisco, drive under the freeway and bear to the right. Go up the road to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, continue along the road past the intersection with a road coming up from Rodeo Valley to the large tunnels on the right. Park and walk up the trail to the left of the second tunnel. We will bird from the observation point at the north end of the hilltop. Bring lunch and liquids. Sun screen, a hat and a wind-breaker may be advisable. Co-Leaders: Carter Faust

(453-2899) and Herb Brandt (239-2711).

Saturday, September 27—Tubbs and Skaggs Islands. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the gate to Tubbs Island. From Hwy. 101 take the Hwy 37 (Vallejo) exit. Proceed beyond the turnoff to Hwy. 121 and cross the railroad tracks. The gate is on the right just beyond the tracks. The gate is locked so be on time to enter with the group. We will then caravan over dirt roads to the starting point. We will walk about three miles on level terrain looking for shorebirds.

After lunch we will go to Skaggs Island to look for Burrowing Owls. Leader: Gloria Markowitz (892-2910).

Sunday, September 28—Lands End, San Francisco. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Palace of the Legion of Honor parking lot (Lincoln Park). From Geary Blvd. go north (toward the Bay) on 34th Ave. to the top of the hill (through the golf course) and park in the large circular lot to the east (right). Lunch optional. We will walk about two miles. Leader: Alan Hopkins (664-0983).

Sunday, October 5—Sunol Regional Park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Park Headquarters. Take I-680 south, exit at Calaveras Rd., go left and follow the signs to Sunol Park (about 5 miles). Bring lunch. We should see some wintering residents and fall migrants common to the interior. Trip ends after lunch. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720).

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

JUNE AND EARLY JULY OBSERVATIONS

through July 9

News from The Farallones

The late arrival of spring northwestern winds heralded colder water temperatures and increased food production. This meant a late start for nesting seabirds. But, as of May 28, Cassin's Auklets and Common Murres were crowding the colony and producing many eggs, with first auklet chicks hatching over two weeks later than last year. Western Gulls and Brandt's Cormorants, although nesting in smaller numbers than 1985, seemed to be having good fledging success. Pelagic Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots nest in very small numbers in good years and give up entirely if food is scarce. Therefore the island biologists consider them "El Nino indicator species" and are monitoring their activities carefully. Two good waves of landbirds arrived in late May and early June (PRBO). (These accounts are interspersed and cover the period May 23-June 21.)

Seabirds

Two Laysan's Albatrosses were seen on a Monterey Pelagic trip June 7 (SJ, TAC, JSL).

Four trips to the deep waters beyond the Cordell Banks took place in June and early July to explore the off-shore areas where large dark gadfly petrels (*Pterodromas*) had been seen in April. (All birds reported for June 1 and June 13 are *fide* PA. Those reported on June 7 are *fide* PA, SJ; and the July 4 reports are *fide* SJ.) Good numbers of many species were seen. Only the highlights are reported here. Northern Fulmar: 20 on June 1, 30 on June 7, and 12 on June 13. In addition, four were seen near The Farallones June 2 (SFB). **Solander's Petrel:** one June 1, one June 7; **Mur-**

phy's Petrel: one June 1; unidentified large dark *Pterodromas*: four June 1, six June 7 (two tentatively identified as Murphy's), five June 13, two July 4; Cook's-type ("Cookilaria") gadfly petrel: one June 7. Photos were taken of many of these birds, which should keep the California Bird Records Committee engrossed for some time. Buller's Shearwater: one **June 13**, two **July 4**; Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel: three July 4. A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen June 7, and a South Polar Skua on July 4. Sabine's Gulls appeared on two of the trips: fifteen June 1, three June 7, and three were seen near The Farallones June 2 (SFB). Arctic Terns occurred on each of the Cordell Banks trips: two June 1, seven June 7, five June 13, and one July 4. Xantus's Murrelets were seen on each trip with a high count of nine on June 13. Another two Xantus' were near The Farallones June 2 (SFB). One **Horned Puffin** appeared on the June 1 pelagic trip (PA, RAE): one was seen from a fishing boat off Big Sur June 22-23 (DLe, *fide* SJ); another was reported from a boat off Santa Cruz June 28 (NL, DLe, *fide* SJ).

Other Waterbirds

A breeding plumaged Horned Grebe was at Fish Docks June 1-2 (J, MS). A Red-necked Grebe was at Bodega Harbor Mouth May 31 (DAH, MLR) and June 13 (PA), and another was seen at Fish Docks June 15 (SFB). An adult Little Blue Heron appeared at a small pond in Bodega Dunes Campground June 1 (SY, mob). A Brant was seen near the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza June 16-28 (DK, TC), with two there July 6 (JR, *fide* WG). The male **King Eider** at the Salinas River Mouth was last reported June 6 still in immature plumage (DSu, DR). The Rodeo Lagoon Harlequin Duck remained through June 16 (GH).

and the second year male Harlequin at SE Farallon was present through June 21 (PRBO—as are all other Farallon reports). A female Oldsquaw lingered at the Bodega Harbor Mouth to May 31 (DAH, MLR), and another was seen at Heart's Desire Beach June 20 (JM). A breeding plumaged Lesser Golden-Plover was discovered at the Salinas River Mouth July 8 (DSu). Two American Black-Oystercatchers were flying to an isolated breakwater near Alameda Naval Air Station June 3, and one was seen in the same vicinity on June 20 (HG, LRF, LJP). Three were near the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza July 6 (JR, *fide* WG). Early were 120 Red-necked Phalaropes at a salt pond near East Palo Alto June 29 (CSw). A Laughing Gull was found at the Stockton Sewage ponds July 2 (DY). Single Least Terns were reported from San Lorenzo River Mouth May 30, and Salinas River Mouth July 8 (DSu).

Landbirds and Eastern Vagrants

A Common Nighthawk was heard singing and calling over Livermore June 11 (PW). A **Whip-poor-will** was seen at the Fish Docks June 6 (RS, GH). A **Red-headed Woodpecker**—the second California record—appeared briefly in Crescent City on June 9 (JK, ADB, *fide* BB). A Willow Flycatcher was seen at the Fish Docks June 5 (NTC, MO).

Spring vagrants turned up in small numbers in several waves, May 28-June 2, June 6-9, and June 11-14. Single Eastern Kingbirds put in appearances at SE Farallon Island May 30, north of Mendoza Ranch May 31 (JM), Fish Docks June 15 (SFB, et al.), and American River Parkway June 23 (*fide* SRBA). In Siskiyou County a **Sedge Wren** was found singing on Lower Little Shasta Road near Montegue June 8, and it continued to be seen and heard

through July 4 (RE, MR, DSr, mob). The Varied Thrush at Nunes remained at least through June 6 (SCa, Gh, mob). Two Red-eyed Vireos showed up this spring: one singing at New Willows June 1 (MLR, DAH), and another at SE Farallon Island May 28-30.

The following table of eastern warblers lists 48 individuals of 16 species for the period May 28 through July 9. Totals for the spring vagrant season are 50 individuals of 16 species.

Tennessee Warbler (total 5; 6 this spring)

3 SE Farallon	May 28-June 1; June 11 (2)	PRBO
2 Point Reyes	May 31-June 2	BHi, ASH, DSr, DL, JM

Northern Parula (total 4; 5 this spring)

3 SE Farallon	May 28-29; June 2-4; June 11	PRBO
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1 Gazos Creek Rd.—San Mateo County	June 1	PJM
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Chestnut-sided Warbler (total 4)

2 SE Farallon	June 14	PRBO
1 Point Reyes	Jun 1	JM
1 Atherton—San Mateo County	June 7	DSu

Magnolia Warbler (total 9)

6 SE Farallon	May 31-June 14	PRBO
2 Point Reyes	May 31, June 6	BHi, RS
1 Sutro Hts. Park	June 1	ASH

Cape May Warbler (total 1)

1 SE Farallon	June 11	PRBO
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Black-throated Green Warbler (total 1)

1 SE Farallon	May 30	PRBO
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Blackburnian Warbler (total 1)

1 SE Farallon	May 31	PRBO
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Palm Warbler (total 1)

1 SE Farallon	June 11	PRBO
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Bay-breasted Warbler (total 1)

1 SE Farallon	June 3	PRBO
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Blackpoll Warbler (total 1)

1 Point Reyes	June 14-15	TCh
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Black-and-white Warbler (total 5)

3 SE Farallon	June 1-2, 11-13 (pair June 11-13 involved in courtship feeding!)	PRBO
1 Point Reyes	June 14	DAH
1 Golden Gate Pk.	June 2	ASH

American Redstart (total 6)		
2 SE Farallon	June 11-13	PRBO
4 Point Reyes	May 31-June 2	JM, DSR, DL, mob
	June 14-15	JM
Worm-eating Warbler (total 1)		
1 SE Farallon	May 30	PRBO
Ovenbird (total 5)		
5 SE Farallon	May 28-June 6	PRBO
Kentucky Warbler (total 1)		
1 SE Farallon	June 10	PRBO
Hooded Warbler (total 2)		
1 Gazos Creek Rd.	June 1	PJM
1 New Brighton State Beach— Santa Cruz Co.	June 17	DSu
Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared in average numbers, 15 individuals (17 this spring), as follows:		
7 SE Farallon	May 30-June 11	PRBO
4 Point Reyes	May 29-June 7	SCa, JM, RS, JMac, GH, mob
1 Muir Woods	June 8-10	DAH, DSi
1 Tilden Park	June 13	MJ
1 Berkeley	June 20-21	HG
1 New Brighton State Beach	June 17	DSu
A Blue Grosbeak was at Fish Docks June 26 (JP, BDP).		
Indigo Buntings were represented by 11 individuals as follows:		
4 SE Farallon	May 29, June 11-13	PRBO
4 Point Reyes	May 31-June 2;	JM, BHi, mob
	June 6	RS
1 Olema grasslands	July 8	RMS
1 Mill Valley	June 1	JC

An Indigo X Lazuli Bunting was identified east of San Gregorio Beach June 28 (SFB).

Two Dickcissels stopped at SE Farallon Island May 31-June 2, and June 14. A Brewer's Sparrow was seen at the Lighthouse June 2 (MLR, MS, GF). A singing male Black-chinned Sparrow at Strawberry Canyon Trail, Alameda County, June 7 was still present June 10 (JT). A female Lark Bunting was found at Mendoza Annex June 6 (GH). SE Farallon Island had a Grasshopper Sparrow June 9, a Swamp Sparrow June 1-2,

and a female Lapland Longspur on May 31. A male Bobolink appeared at Palomarin Coastguard Station June 9 (DDeS).

Observers

Stephen F. Bailey, Bruce Barrett, Alan D. Barron, Kurt F. Campbell, Scott Carey (SCa), Theodore A. Chandik, John Comstock (JCo), Tom Condit, Nancy T. Conzett, David DeSante, Ray Ekstrom, Richard A. Erickson, Leora R. Feeney, George Finger, Wilma Ghiorso, Helen Green, Bob Hirt (BHi), David A. Holway, Alan S. Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Margaret Jessup, Durrell Kapan, Jeffrey Kingery, David Lemon (DLe), Nick Lemon, John S. Luther, John MacCormick, many observers (mob), Peter J. Metropulos, Joseph Morlan, Min Oppenheim, Pacific Adventures, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon Report thanks to Harry Carter, Stephanie Kaza, Peter Pyle, and Susan Peaslee), Lina J. Prairie, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Mike Robbins, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Sacramento Rare Bird Alert, Debra Love Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, Dan Singer (DS), Rich Stallcup, Morrie Stern, Robert M. Stewart, David Suddjian, Chris Swarth (CSw), Jean Thomas, Peter Willman, David Yee, Susan Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288.

—HELEN A. GREEN
Observations Editor
2001 Yolo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94707

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

As eager as a child eying the old swimming hole, the Scrub Jay was impatient for me to fill the bird bath. On a hot summer's day a cool dip was irresistible:

Bathing is a seemingly innate urge among birds and each species uses quite specific gestures. Most songbirds and other land birds with strong feet bathe while standing. Most birds duck their head into the water, quickly raise it, then beat their wings, splashing water over their backs. Bathing is essential to the maintenance of birds' plumage, so after its bath, a bird will fly to a nearby perch, shake off any excess water and begin arranging its feathers and spreading the preen oil over its plumage. Vultures, hawks and Anhingas hold their wings out "spread eagle" in the sun to dry.

Aerial species, such as swifts and swallows, go for a quick dip on the surface of a pond or other waters. Swimming birds usually dip their heads and necks underwater, allowing the water to roll down their backs; they alternate this with rapid wing beats on the water's surface. No bird will soak itself "to the skin" as it would be very vulnerable—it would be unable to fly or a waterbird would sink with no air trapped in its feathers.

If no bird bath or other water is available, birds will seek out spray from a hose ("my" hummingbirds and chickadees love to fly through the spray as I water) or a lawn sprinkler. After a rain or during heavy fogs, birds will leaf-bathe. They flutter about on the surface of wet leaves or grasses. Some birds deliberately rain-bathe, that is, they expose themselves to a sudden shower rather than take refuge from a

cloudburst.

Gallinaceous birds, such as quail or grouse, as well as larks and some sparrows, prefer a dust bath. Their gestures are similar to a water bath, but they usually make a hollow by scratching with their feet, then rotate their bodies as they settle down and apply dust by wallowing and flipping dust with their wings. This seems to help keep plumage fluffy by removing excess moisture and preen oil, therefore making the feathers air-retentive for good insulation. It may also flush out ectoparasites such as bird lice.

Sun bathing is another beneficial activity which I discussed in a previous article. It is quite an astonishing performance since one doesn't expect to see a bird lying on its side, bill agape, panting, looking as if it is suffering from heat prostration or as if in a trance. There are several theories as to the benefits of sunning: to drive ectoparasites from hard-to-reach surfaces, to fluff and dry feathers, to release Vitamin D from the preen oil which is then ingested as the bird preens, and/or to increase energy reserves by absorbing solar radiation through the skin. Ultimately, it is part of the preening ritual and has been reported in 170 species of birds.

Along with your bird feeders and plants to attract birds, a bird bath is a nice addition. It's best to have one on a pedestal or hanging to discourage cats from pouncing on water-logged birds. Locating it near shrubs or hanging branches gives the birds an escape route. Frequently you should scrub out the bath, removing algae and bird droppings. Fill 'er up and sit back for the arrival of a variety of feathered friends.

—MEG PAULETICH

FALL BIRDING CLASSES

San Francisco

You can still join one of Joe Morlan's classes in the current series. Ornithology I, II, and III meet Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 7 p.m. at City College of San Francisco, near the corner of Judson and Phelan Avenues. However, the room numbers have been changed. Ornithology I and III meet in room 268, Arts Bldg. Ext. Ornithology II meets in room 310, Arts Bldg. See the July-August *Gull*, or call the college at 561-1900 for more information. The classes are free.

Piedmont

Dr. Michael Perrone will again offer a birding class through Piedmont Adult School. The course, sponsored by GGAS, will concentrate on fall migrant shorebirds and waterbirds. It will emphasize identification of these birds by their behavior, habitat, appearance and voice. It includes six evening classroom lectures illustrated with color slides, and several Saturday morning bird walks. Field trips details will be announced in class. Bring a bird guide, preferably the National Geographic Society Guide (available at the GGAS office) or the Golden Guide by Robbins et al.

For information, call Piedmont Adult School, 653-9454 or 658-3679, day or night. The class starts Thursday, September 25, and ends Saturday, November 1. It will meet at Piedmont High School, 800 Magnolia Avenue. Please note that the class meets Thursdays, which is a change from previous sessions.

Diablo Valley College

This fall Chris Swarth will be teaching *Waterbirds of Northern California* at DVC. This course includes four

evening lectures and two weekend field trips. A trip to the Monterey Bay area on Saturday, October 25 includes stops at Elkhorn Slough and Pt. Lobos State Reserve. On Sunday, October 26, we'll travel offshore (with Shearwater Journeys) to view seabirds and marine mammals. Our trip on November 22-23 will be to see the spectacular waterfowl concentrations using the wildlife refuges of the Sacramento Valley.

To enroll in the course, call DVC Admissions at 685-1230. For more information, call Chris at 849-2053 (evenings) or 642-0834 (days).

Fremont

On Saturday, September 27, The Fremont Adult School will offer a field class, *Birds of the Coast*, taught by Alice Hoch. Designed for both beginning and experienced birders, the students will observe sea, shore, marsh and landbirds along the San Mateo County coast.

The class is limited to 15 and students must pre-register by Tuesday, September 23 either in person or by mail, FAS, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont, 94538. Include \$13.50 fee and a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want confirmation of registration.

Tuesday and Wednesday field trip classes, also taught by Alice, begin on September 9 and 10. For further information on any of the classes call Alice at 657-0475 or the adult school at 791-5841.

Walnut Creek

"Natural History of California Birds" will be taught by Phil Gordon on Wednesday evenings for 10 weeks, beginning September 10 at 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. at Acalanes High School in Room 307. The fee is \$35 and you may register at the first class. This class

1986-87 GGAS EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS

KENYA — October 27 - November 19, 1986

One of the greatest wildlife spectacles on earth is found in this friendly country. Vast herds of animals, sweeping vistas and hundreds of species of birds are preserved in numerous parks and game reserves. The climate is mild, food and accommodations are superb, and the roads are good. Mammals such as lion, cheetah, zebra, elephant, giraffe, antelope and rhino will be just as much a part of this trip as the birds. The tour also visits the coastal area near Mombasa, where we may also do some snorkeling and sailing. Leaders: Terry Stevenson and Chris Carpenter. Price \$4595.

SOUTHERN MEXICO — November 14 - 30, 1986

This is a visit to the best of all bird worlds—the tropics—and to the past. We'll search for such exciting birds as Resplendent Quetzal, Dwarf Jay, Pinnated Bittern and Aplomado Falcon. Our birding starts at the remains of the Zapotec Indian city of Monte Alban and ends at the spectacular Mayan ruins of Palenque, where the rain forest harbors an incredible diversity of birds. The tour covers desert, thorn forest, pine woodlands, seashore and the magnificent Sumidero Canyon. Leaders: Lina Prairie and Steve Howell. Price \$2095.

COSTA RICA — March 14 - 29. 1987

The people of this peaceful, enlightened country are proud to have more teachers than soldiers, the highest standard of living, and have preserved more rain forest and cloud forest per square mile than any Central American nation. Visit forests of La Selva, Volcan Poas, Monteverde, Corcovado and the new Braulio Carrillo National Park. We will also spend a morning with Alexander Skutch at his farm. Leaders: Steve Howell and Lina Prairie.

TEXAS SPRING MIGRATION

April 22 - May 2 1987

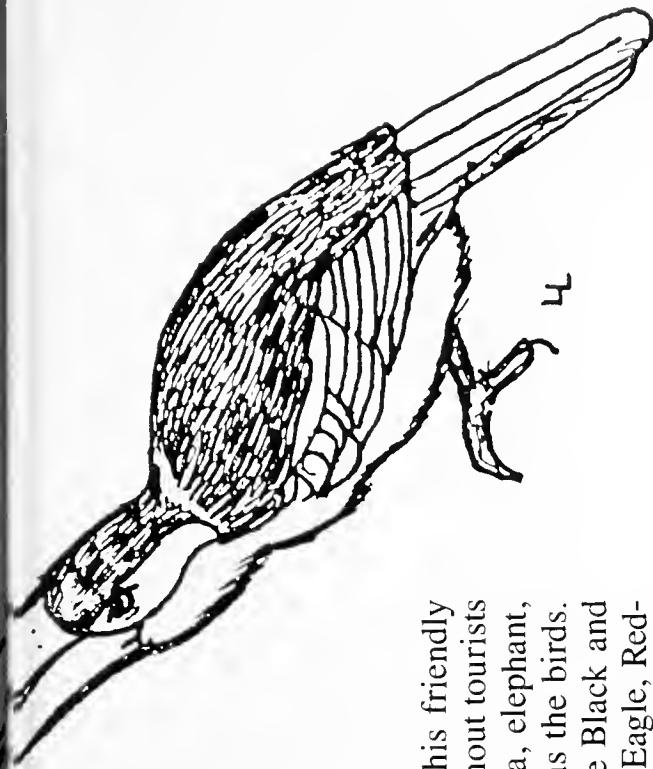
a riot of colors. The last GGAS Texas trip had 32 species of warblers, Wood and Grey-checked Thrush, Veery, Greater Prairie Chicken, Hudsonian Godwit, Yellow and King Rails on the rail buggy ride, Chachalaca, Henslow's, Bachman's, Seaside and Botteri's Sparrows. The tour covers the Rio Grande Valley, the Upper Coast and East Texas. Leader: Chris Carpenter.

BOTSWANA — August 7 - 29, 1987

One of the greatest wildlife spectacles on earth is found in this friendly country. Here you can see the magnificence of southern Africa without tourists and without apartheid. Vast herds of animals such as cheetah, zebra, elephant, antelope, hippo and rhino will be just as much a part of this trip as the birds. Our tour focuses on the Okavango River Delta, where we may see Black and Slaty Egrets, Pygmy Goose, Blue and Wattled Cranes, African Fish Eagle, Red-faced Mousebird, kingfishers, bee-eaters, sunbirds, and hundreds more. Leaders: Mike Culhane and Chris Carpenter.

SURINAM — November 20 - December 7, 1987

If you want the best in tropical birding and are willing to "rough it" a little (2 nights in a hammock), you will see pristine rain forest that stretches as far as you can see. In it we hope to find such spectacular birds as Harpy Eagle, Black Curassow, Azure Gallinule, Scarlet Ibis, Spangled Cotinga, five species of Macaw, White Bellbird, as many as 45 species of antbirds, Waved Woodpecker and many more. Dr. Pepper Trail is the world's leading expert on Capuchinbird and Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock and has spent months afield studying them in this fascinating country. Leaders: Pepper Trail and Chris Carpenter.



THIRD ANNUAL WILD BIRD SEED SALE

PICKUP DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1986 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Here we are again, wild bird seed for sale at the same reasonable prices for the same good cause! Fill your yard with birdlife and help to put life into our Conservation Committee's efforts. The seed sale has become an integral part of our GGAS conservation budget and as you're well aware the Bay Area faces ever increasing threats to its wildlife, especially our wetland habitat birds. So please encourage friends and neighbors to join with you in ordering seed from the sale.

Since the Seed Sale has become incorporated as a GGAS activity we are now looking for volunteers to form an on-going committee to run future sales. Also we are considering selling bird feeders at the sale. Please let us know if this would be a valuable resource for you. Call 843-2222 for volunteer information and bird feeder feedback!

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

To benefit GGAS programs you must order and prepay by October 6. Seed orders will be available for pick-up at a distribution point in Berkeley and one in San Francisco. Confirmation of your order and location of the distribution point will be sent to you by October 9.

Send the order form (with tax calculated, please), your check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: BIRD SEED, GGAS, Room 204, 1550 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709.

VOLUNTEERS

Like so many Audubon activities, this one depends on volunteers. Please help. Call the office at 843-2222. Help is needed in both San Francisco and Berkeley.

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID
AND RECEIVED BY GGAS
BY OCTOBER 6, 1986**

Order Form on next page.

VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED: Premium mix, the "Rolls-Royce" of bird seed contains no low cost fillers that birds flick aside. Composed of white and red millet and sudan grass screenings (a favorite of Bay Area birds).

GGAS SPECIAL WILD BIRD SEED MIX: Top quality traditional mix specially blended for us to meet the needs of Bay Area birds. It contains white and red millet, black oil sunflower seed, milo and rape seed. This mix is superior to any commercial grade wild bird seed sold in the area and is an excellent buy for the money.

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED: According to research done by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology this seed is preferred two to one over the medium striped variety. It is high in oil content and nutritive value and appeals to chickadees and nuthatches, titmice, Scrub and Steller's Jays, finches and many other bird species. This is the best all around food for attracting the largest number of desirable birds.

NIGER (THISTLE SEED): Imported from India, this seed is 98% pure. It is a minute seed rich in nourishing oil. It will attract both American and Lesser Goldfinches, but is unappealing to larger birds and squirrels. It will not sprout in your yard.

GGAS BIRD SEED SALE

Here is your chance to order your supply of seed for the season. Persons ordering seed will be notified by mail of the pick-up point address before October 9.

ORDER AND PRE-PAY BY OCTOBER 6
PICK UP ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED — Premium mix composed of white and red millet and sudan grass screenings.

20 lbs. \$ 8.75
 50 lbs. 18.50

GGAS SPECIAL WILD BIRD SEED MIX — Top quality mix specially blended for Bay Area birds composed of white and red millet, black oil sunflower seed, milo and rape seed.

20 lbs. \$ 6.40
 50 lbs. 12.30

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED — High oil content and nutritive value, but smaller than the striped variety.

10 lbs. \$ 8.25
 25 lbs. 20.50

NIGER (THISTLE SEED) — This minute seed is rich in nourishing oil and will attract goldfinches, but not larger birds or squirrels, nor will it sprout in your yard.

5 lbs. \$ 8.60

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (DAY) _____ (EVENING) _____

Please indicate the location at which you prefer to pick up your order:

() San Francisco () Berkeley

ITEM	WEIGHT	QUANTITY	COST	TOTAL
VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs. 50 lbs.		8.75 18.50	
GGAS SPECIAL WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs. 50 lbs.		6.40 12.30	
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	10 lbs. 25 lbs.		8.25 20.50	
NIGER (THISTLE SEED)	5 lbs.		8.60	
GGAS TEE SHIRT			8.00	

ADD 6.5% TAX _____

CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS _____

TOTAL _____

*BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR CHECK,
 AND STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.*

is for beginning to advanced intermediate students. Laboratory workshops with specimens, slide shows, videos and field trips are planned. For more information, contact Acalanes Adult Center, Walnut Creek, 935-0170 or Phil Gordon, 538-3550.

CONSERVATION NOTES

NEW PLAN FOR EASTSHORE STATE PARK

A plan to protect and preserve the baylands of Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany by placing them within a new state park has been revived by the coalition, Citizens for an Eastshore Park (CESP).

The coalition is encouraging these three cities to join together and request state funds (\$11,000,000 is already available) to purchase these lands from Santa Fe Pacific Realty Corporation.

This vision of open space, natural beaches and rich mudflat habitat protected for recreation and wildlife, stands in opposition to Santa Fe's plan for 9 million square feet of development. Their scheme will result in a wall of buildings between Hwy. 80 and the Bay.

You can support this urban shoreline park (which includes protection for the Crescent) by writing to:

Save SF Bay Association Park Fund,
P.O. Box 925, Berkeley, CA 94701
(849-3044).

—CHRIS SWARTH

SANTA FE DEVELOPMENT THREATENS CRESCENT

Another piece of the Bay will be lost if the Santa Fe Pacific Realty Corporation has its way. Santa Fe wants to build a pair of 18-story hotels on the Emeryville Crescent mudflat at the foot of Powell St. They have applied for an Army Corps of Engineers permit to begin the EIR/EIS process. Last June

when the Corps solicited public comments on this project they received numerous responses from federal and state agencies, environmental groups and local citizens; nearly thirty major environmental issues were addressed.

The Emeryville Crescent is a super-productive and relatively pristine salt marsh/mudflat habitat that supports tens of thousands of waterbirds throughout the year. Three endangered species, the Clapper Rail, Brown Pelican and Least Tern, occur there. In 1978 a highly-respected report prepared for GGAS by the Bodega Bay Institute identified this area as "the single most diverse wildlife habitat within the Bay".

What You Can Do:

Send your comments to:

Lt. Col. Andrew M. Perkins, Army Corps of Engineers, 211 Main St., San Francisco, CA 94105.

Mayor Dottie Heintz, Emeryville City Hall, 2449 Powell St., Emeryville, CA 94608.

Bay Conservation & Development Commission, 30 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94109.

Tell them that instead of hotels on the Crescent you'd rather see this shoreline protected as part of the Eastshore State Park.

—CHRIS SWARTH

WATERBIRD DATA NEEDED

The Conservation Committee needs information on waterbird use of wetlands along the south edge of the Oakland Airport. If you have visited this area during a GGAS Christmas Bird Count or at any other time, and have bird records, please call the office, 843-2222. This area is threatened by development and your information could be of critical importance.

GREENBELT CONFERENCE

Plan to attend a People For Open Space conference on "The Greenbelt's Public Lands—The Next 20 Years" on Saturday, September 27 at the UC Berkeley Conference Center. It's a chance to share your vision for the future of the public lands of the nine county Greenbelt—its parks, trails, watersheds and other public lands. Call 543-4291 for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ON THE BALLOT

The El Cerrito Environmental Education Coalition is sponsoring an evening to acquaint citizens with the environmental issues on the November ballot. On Saturday evening, September 20, Assemblyman Robert Campbell, C. C. County Supervisor Tom Powers and Keith Carson from Ron Dellums' office will lead a discussion of these issues. The program will start at 8 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 780 Ashbury, El Cerrito. Call 529-1114 or 527-2194 for more information.

SPRING BIRDATHON REPORT

At last, a report on the spring NAS Birdathon to support the Mono Lake Legal Fund. Thanks to a dedicated group of counters and sponsors the chapter contributed \$1285.73 to the Fund and had a jolly time doing it. Helen and Paul Green led the First-ever East Bay Bird Blitz and saw 131 species, while Dan Murphy and all his followers spotted 118 species in the S.F. Peninsula Bird Blitzathon. Around Mt. Diablo Mary Louise Rosegay and her friends found 68 species. Farther afield George Peyton claims 79 species he noticed on his trek in Nepal.

Thank you to all the leaders and to the field trip chairman for providing a well-organized and pleasurable experience for new and old birders alike—and thank you to all the generous contributors without whom Mono Lake would suffer greater degradation.

REWARDS AND FUN FOR ACR

It seems impossible to believe, but we did it again!

Our third annual Wine and Cheese Tasting on the shores of San Francisco Bay was a roaring success. Not only did we raise \$1200 for Audubon Canyon Ranch, we spent a glorious sunny Sunday afternoon tasting an eclectic mix of wine and cheese and congratulating some of our outstanding members and friends.

Paul Kelly of the California Department of Fish and Game was on hand to receive his well-deserved Conservation Award, as was the semi-surprised Arthur Feinstein. Hazel Houston, our retiring Hostess and Publicity Chair, also received recognition for her long service to GGAS.

Our greatest thanks go to George Peyton (AGAIN!) for his delightful presentation of the wine and his effortless role as host and master of ceremonies.

We are also grateful to our other wine donors, Beaulieu Vineyards, Kendall-Jackson Vineyards & Winery, Inglenook Vineyards, Rosenblum Winery and The Hop Kiln Winery whose owner is Marty Griffin, one of Audubon Canyon Ranch's co-founders. Along with the twenty-one cheeses from The Cheese Board in Berkeley, we had a special gourmet treat prepared by Tom White—a terrific addition to the already uncommon fare. This year the music

was selected by Stan Houston who made all the right choices and for which we thank him.

We had lots of donors, helpers and friends for this event—and you will probably get another chance next year. Thank you all!!!

P.S. We are looking now for volunteers for next year. Please call the office, 843-2222, if you are interested!

YOUR PRESIDENT GOES TO WASHINGTON

In April of 1986, to my astonishment, I was asked by our Western Regional Representative if I would be interested in going to Washington, D.C. for a week, as a guest of National Audubon's Washington Office. There I would be taught the "art" of lobbying and then sent out into the fray to bring health, justice and wisdom into the world, or at least, Congress. Well, perhaps I exaggerate what they expected of me and my 18 companions. Having said yes, I arrived in Washington, however, to find the next week to be incredibly crammed with information, homework and plain old footwork. Clearly, a lobbyist (at least a poor one) must be in excellent physical shape. I was sent out to convert 12 Congresspeople and two Senators into supporting an Acid Rain Bill, appropriations to purchase essential wildlife habitat and to expand our own National Wildlife Refuge, and much else. The distance between the Senate Office Building and the House Buildings, if not a mile, soon felt like one. It was back and forth all day between the many buildings trying to corner the Congressmen, or their aides, as

they shuffled back and forth from the Capitol Building to vote and orate. It was, in all, quite an experience. 150 House Members signed on to the Acid Rain Bill; perhaps I did help. I'll never know. What I did learn, however, is that National Audubon is, indeed, a most wonderful organization. The 18 other volunteers I worked with were all delightful people, dedicated, intelligent and fun to be with. National's staff in Washington were exemplary. Hard-working (they work incredibly long hours—they wore us all out), terribly bright and, I believe, incredibly effective. They made me extremely proud to be a volunteer in the Society. Congratulate yourselves on being members, we're doing the right thing.

—ARTHUR FEINSTEIN

THE COOPER SOCIETY

The featured speaker at the September meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society will be Steve Laymon. His subject is Yellow-billed Cuckoos along the Kern River.

The meeting will be at UC Berkeley, Life Sciences Bldg., Room 2503, Monday, September 8, at 8 p.m., preceded by a business session at 7:45. Everyone interested in birds is invited.

THANKS, AND GOOD LUCK

Summer Wilson, long-time friend and member of GGAS, is off to join the World Wildlife Fund research station in Manaus, Brazil and has left us a legacy—her treasured library of wildlife books, foreign and regional guides. Come browse through the new acquisitions.

THE YEAR OF THE RAPTOR

The International Council for Bird Preservation's Working Group on Birds of Prey has named March 1987 to April 1988 the International Year of the Raptor. Man's admiration is stirred, today as in the past, by the sight of the eagle soaring majestically along a steep cliff or a falcon in a breathtaking dive. The fact that birds of prey are admired did not help them when it came survival. Raptors, at the top of the food chain, are sensitive to changes in their environment. And indeed, in the second half of the twentieth century some species have declined and some have become extinct, and some are in imminent danger of becoming so. Not enough is being done to save them.

In an effort to reverse this trend the Working Group is launching an education campaign in cooperation with conservation organizations throughout the world.

As a highlight of the year, a conference is announced March 22-27, 1987 to be held in Eilat, Israel. The time is at the height of raptor migration and Eilat, on the Red Sea, is a highly re-

garded birding location. A local representative of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, Daniel Meyerowitz, can answer your questions about the event (849-2138) or you may write to the Society at 13 Heleni Hamalka St., Jerusalem, 95101, Israel.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Eight themes are announced for the Eilat Conference and papers are invited: Conservation and biology of rare raptors, Conservation and biology of rare owls, Raptors on migration and wintering grounds, Population biology and breeding, Raptors in polluted environments, Research and management of raptor habitats, Education, and Legislation.

CALL FOR COMPETITORS

The festival in connection with the conference will include competitions in photography, painting and drawing, birds of prey films. If interested, write for details. Sir Eric Hosking and Dr. Roger Tory Peterson are patrons of the competition.

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THE GULL

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) 843-2211

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.